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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

STATE review(s) completed.

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20 January 1970

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Approved For Release 2003/05/29 : CIA-RDP79T00975A015400050001-5

Approved For Release 2003/05/29 : CIA-RDP79T00975A015400050001-5

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No. 0017/70
20 January 1970

Central Intelligence Bulletin

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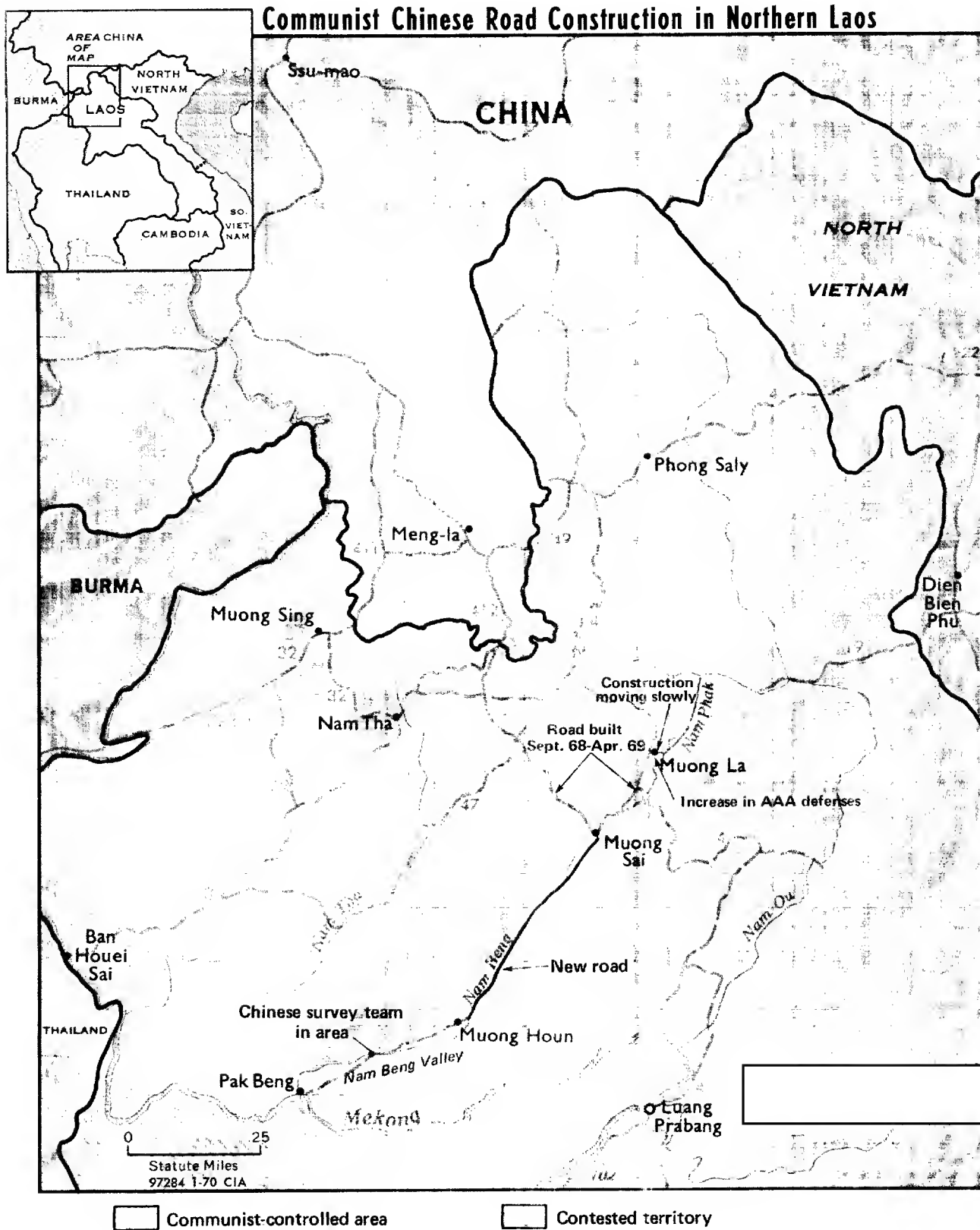
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Laos: The Chinese may be preparing to extend their road-building activities as far south as Pak Beng on the Mekong River this dry season.

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[redacted]
[redacted] a Communist survey team was placing surveying markers some 17 miles south of Muong Houn on 8 January. In addition, [redacted]
[redacted] the Pathet Lao have stated the road will be completed to Pak Beng "sometime in 1970." This is the first evidence to suggest that the Communists plan to extend the road beyond Muong Houn this year.

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In a possibly related development, local Pathet Lao officials are in the process of rounding up villagers who have fled the Muong Houn area over the past year because of heavy demands placed upon them by the Communists. [redacted]

[redacted] some of these villagers are being sent to Muong Sai for construction training. [redacted]

[redacted] the Chinese are relying upon local villagers and North Vietnamese in building the road southwest of Muong Sai.

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[redacted] Communist survey activity south of Muong Houn may spur Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma, who is extremely sensitive about the presence of Chinese road builders in the Nam Beng Valley, to adopt harsher measures against the road-building activities. [redacted]

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East Germany - West Germany: Party leader Ulbricht said yesterday that Pankow is willing to negotiate with Bonn, but that East Germany will continue to press its demands.

Speaking at a press conference in East Berlin, Ulbricht was carefully ambiguous on many points, and implied in his prepared remarks that the East Germans wish the treaty that he sent to Bonn last month to serve as the basis for negotiation. Later on, however, he stressed that the treaty was only a draft, although it represents Pankow's minimum demands.

Ulbricht said that he did not consider Brandt's speech last week to be a reply to his draft treaty. He commented that the East Germans would patiently await such a response. In discussing Brandt's statement that Bonn would propose talks on a renunciation of force agreement, Ulbricht again indicated that he is in no hurry to begin talks. He said that the East Germans will await the outcome of the Soviet - West German negotiations on a similar agreement. In addition, he remarked that any East - West German negotiations would require a long period of preparation.

[redacted] talks may not begin with Bonn until after the Poles and the Czechoslovaks, as well as the Soviets, conclude discussions with the West Germans.

Ulbricht also implied that any negotiations on a renunciation of force treaty would have to be part of broader talks. He said that Bonn would have to prove that it is "earnest" by recognizing East Germany as a sovereign state. In reply to a question, he remarked that Bonn's recognition of the "status quo", which he did not further define, is a basic condition for an agreement on renunciation of force.

Bonn's initial response to Ulbricht's remarks is that he has not raised any insurmountable barrier to political talks, although a delay in the timing appears inevitable.

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Okinawa: A five-day strike launched yesterday by local employees at US military bases has already brought about clashes with US military personnel and could lead to further violence.

Several Okinawans and Americans were slightly injured Monday in a variety of incidents, one involving a skirmish with armed US servicemen. In another, a group of radical students penetrated a US base, but were quickly ejected.

The striking workers are protesting the dismissal of some 1,200 workers as part of a worldwide reduction in US overseas local employees. The present strike is a follow-up to a 48-hour strike staged on 8-9 January. A third walkout is threatened in late January or early February. The Okinawan workers claim that the layoffs are unjustified because they are not accompanied by a reduction in US base activities.

Although the union leadership is resigned to the cuts and would prefer to break off the strike before serious violence occurs, it has refused to budge on its conditions for settlement. Much of the rank and file prefers to work, but enough union members support the leadership's demands to assure the continuation of the strike, barring concessions by the US. As the strike continues, the probability of violence will increase, especially from extremist students and other radical elements bent on exploiting the issue.

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Bolivia: President Ovando's contradictory public statements on his government's policy goals have created confusion and serious concern among top government and military officials.

Statements attributed to Ovando approve collaboration with Cuba, hint at possible withdrawal from the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Defense Board, and favor state control of the economy, including nationalization of all property. These remarks have caused alarm among moderates in the government and the military. The radical statements,

appeared in the La Paz press only last week, contrast sharply with the President's moderate New Year's speech.

Attempts to clarify Ovando's position in his absence from the capital have resulted only in more confusion. Information Minister Bailey confirmed that the President made the statements, but said that Ovando was speaking of the "speculative future" when he referred to the socialization of Bolivia and the formation of an "anti-imperialist bloc" composed of Peru, Cuba, and Bolivia. Bailey's statement that Bolivia was "content" that US military assistance had been halted, however, caused the most concern among top army officers.

As a result of the public statements of the President and Minister Bailey, the US ambassador has notified the Bolivian Government that the partial resumption of US military aid privately agreed to by Ovando on 13 January now hinges on a public clarification of Bolivia's position on the matter. Top military officers appear to be pressing responsible government officials to take a public position more favorable to the US.

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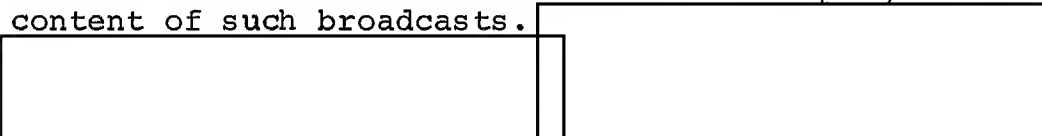
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UN: The UN General Assembly's outer space committee, meeting today to begin establishing its annual work program, will face some tough issues in 1970.

High on the agenda will be an attempt to complete the space liability convention on rules for compensating damages resulting from space-related accidents. The Assembly last month adopted a resolution expressing "deep dissatisfaction" that a treaty text had not been finished. A principal stumbling block remains agreement on a satisfactory arbitral procedure in disputes over damages.

The committee has scheduled a meeting of its scientific and technical subcommittee in April. This subcommittee will focus its attention on methods to promote applications of space technology. A prime subject may be the US proposal for international cooperation to perfect techniques for surveying earth resources. The Assembly last month adopted a resolution favoring such a program despite Soviet objection that it touched on sensitive areas--security and sovereignty.

Since 1961 the UN has been on record in favor of no discrimination in the availability of satellite communications. The current center of attention is the study of the feasibility of internationally controlled satellites broadcasting directly to individual nations. The working group on this subject is scheduled to convene in May to consider the implications of such satellites in social, cultural, legal, and other areas. The meeting will also examine the special needs of developing countries in this field and the delicate problem of whether there should be restraints on the program content of such broadcasts.



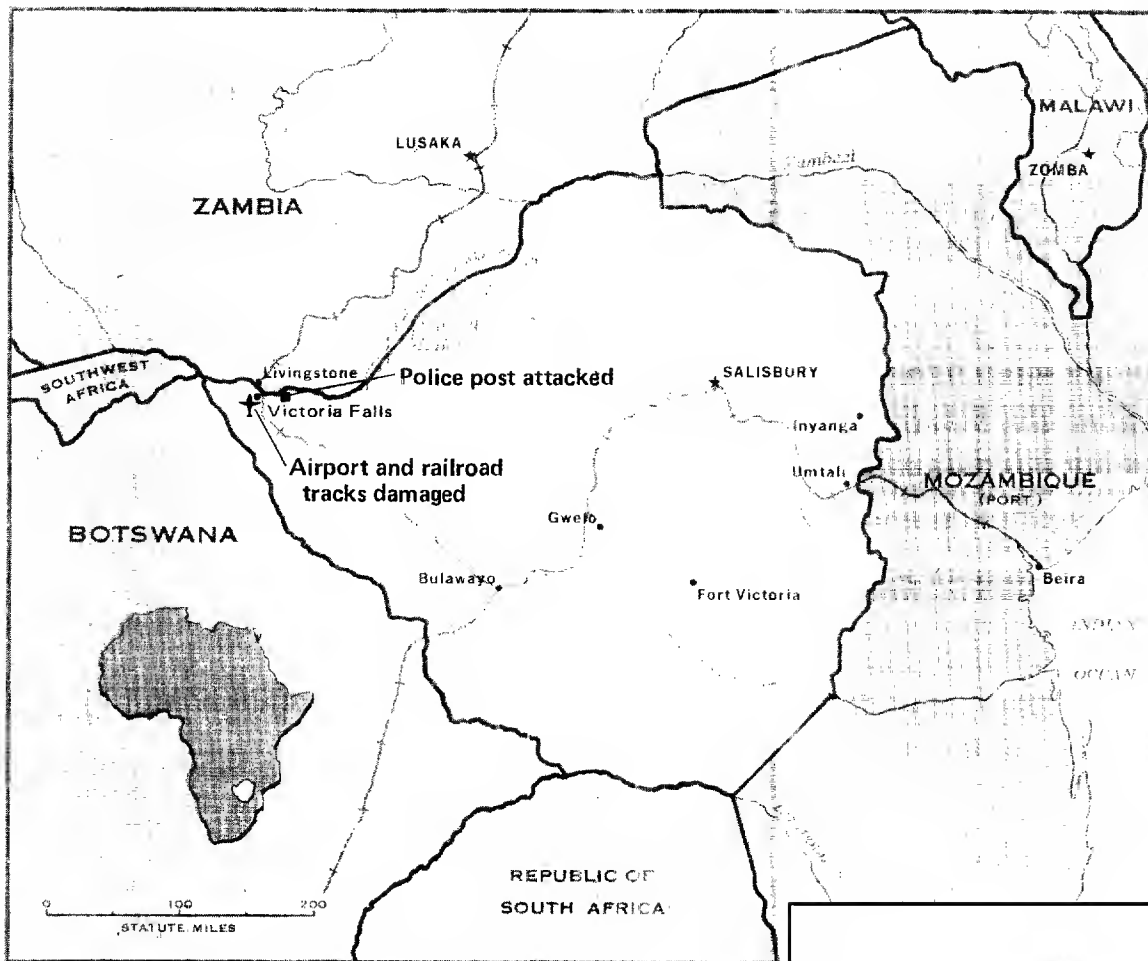
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African Nationalists Stage Raid in Rhodesia



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Pakistan: The violence that erupted during a political rally in East Pakistan Sunday night is a taste of things to come in the electoral campaign. The clash between rival political groups was the first serious violence since full-scale political activity resumed in Pakistan on 1 January. It came on the eve of a week of potentially disruptive demonstrations and general strikes called by East Pakistani students to commemorate the unrest that toppled the Ayub Khan regime last year. The events of this week could provide an important test of the government's willingness and ability to maintain order and to enforce its guidelines for political activity.

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Rhodesia: A small band of African nationalists crossed the Zambezi River from Zambia over the weekend and attacked a South African - manned police post just inside Rhodesia. Later, they shot up the airport at Victoria Falls, inflicting minor damage, and tore up some nearby railroad tracks. This guerrilla raid, the first since late 1968, caught the South African and Rhodesian security forces completely by surprise. South African police have been stationed in Rhodesia since the first large guerrilla incursion in 1967.

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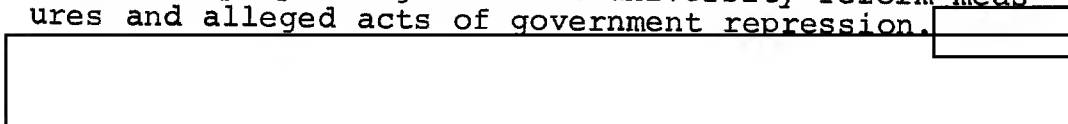
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Venezuela: Army troops occupied Central University in Caracas yesterday following a renewal of student agitation, according to press reports. The school was just being reopened after having been closed since early November, when military occupation put an end to student violence. Student disorders have taken place throughout Venezuela since the academic year began last September, and they can be expected to increase. Specific student grievances center on proposed government university reform measures and alleged acts of government repression.



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UN - Middle East: Facing an estimated budget deficit of \$8.6 million for 1969-70 operations, the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) has instituted economy measures that could cause political repercussions in the Middle East. UNRWA Commissioner General Michelmores will inform Amman today that education and health subsidies to Jordan for refugee services, amounting to \$650,000 per year, will be discontinued on 1 May. A similar statement will be made to Lebanon. Jordanian officials have already approached the US ambassador, urging that the US make up the deficit. A reduction in services could facilitate fedayeen recruitment in the refugee camps.

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USSR-US: The USSR has agreed to start negotiations shortly with the US on a 1970-71 cultural exchange agreement and a second round of technical talks on peaceful nuclear explosives. The cultural agreement discussions will begin in Washington on 29 January. The Soviets do not expect them to last as long as the 43-day session in 1968 when Moscow succeeded in reducing cultural contacts. The technical talks will start on 11 February in Moscow with the Soviets looking toward a procedure for sharing the technology of nuclear excavation shots with other countries.

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